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The Heroic Age

"Whether it be wise in men to do such actions or no, I am sure it is so in states to honor them." Sir William Temple, as quoted by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The conduct of the mad fellows who, astride pasteboard machines, flung themselves into the air in the North Atlantic meets the frown of common sense. The proceedings are as alien to the calmness which prefer the safe and sane as a ballad is to a man with a prose mind. Yet, as Temple remarked, it is wise for states to honor such.

The foolhardy build peaks and ranges in sight of dwellers on the level, and, beholding them, there is born a general desire to climb. Courage in excess flames fiercely and its bright light shames the cowardice which lurks in the common heart to screen itself. An army not led by memories of the quixotic will not go often over the top. All will fare the race when divine folly, climbing into the driver's seat, no longer orders prudence to let go the reins.

Why do they do it? Is it love of fame? It is doubtful. Fame is a wooer, but scarcely capable of commanding surrenders so complete. Tower and Read and Hawker, of course, knew, if the waters gulped them down, they would be remembered; but what of their crews, just as heroic, though their names are in smaller type and in their nostrils little perfume of personal distinction?

"A peerage or Westminster Abbey," cried Nelson in one of his excellent moments, but when the straining test came and he was actively doing his thought ran not beyond the minute in hand. The bud does not say "I am to become a flower." It simply becomes one through the spontaneous working of inner force. Fame is a motive, but love of it does not account for these aviators any more than it did for Scott and Peary in their quests for the poles.

Vital men such as these scornors of the surface were pushed on by creative instincts, by the outswellings of a spirit they little stopped to study or define. They did not know why, but they heard a call from their very tissues and they responded. The conduct of such men has the sound of a trumpet to raise other men to fellowship with the quick. So let us not attempt to decompose their psychology or vainly try to trace acts to their origins. It is the nature of fire to leap upward. Let us rejoice that it is so. Let us hope that as long as men are men the lure of the unattained will lead them.

"Sir," blurted out Dr. Johnson after his experience with the waters of the Hebrides, "no man will be a sailor who has contrivance enough to get himself into jail." It is the historic feeling of the landlubber. And aviators, the sailors of the air, have inherited the perils once the possession of a profession now safe and humdrum, but as no billowing catarrhs drove back the old sailors, so the birdmen, the heirs of their glory, breast the heights where dwell Boreas and his brethren and leave not a hair to their heads.

It is not whether or not there is arrival at the other side which so much appeals as the sheer moral grandeur of deeds which if done by Hercules would have lived in myth and lifted their performers to celestial citizenship. The present, rather than the past is the heroic age, and things are which never before were dreamed.

Unscrambling the Railroads

President Wilson's notice to Congress that he will turn the railroads back to private ownership at the end of the year will hasten the unscrambling which is now inevitable. The Administration is apparently as sick of government railroad operation as the public is. The experiment has been an unrelieved failure. Shippers and passengers are paying more for inferior service and the taxpayers are being forced to make good huge railroad deficits. Mr. McAdoo bade goodby to his job as Director General of the railroad; just in time. His successor, Mr. Hines, is closing out a hopeless economic venture.

Everybody agrees that the railroads ought to be restored to their owners. What Congress has to do before the transfer is made is to secure to the owners a fair chance to operate their recovered property on an equitable basis. Government regulation will survive, and is, in fact, essential. But it ought not to be regulation of the old sort, which sought primarily to keep down rates and thereby crippled the credit of many roads and prevented the development of a well-balanced and efficient national transportation system.

Congress has not yet forgotten the lessons of the war. It is in a mood to consider the regulation problem from the constructive rather than the restrictive side. Transportation is a basic industry. The chief concern of the government in dealing with it ought to be to standardize it and to give all parts of the country a more equalized share of its economic benefits.

Twilight Prohibition

The President recommends a repeal of the prohibition law which covers the period of demobilization so far as concerns wines and beers.

This means, if Congress agrees, no sale of spirituous beverages will occur after June 30, while the sale of wines and beers is to go on until January, when the constitutional amendment becomes operative. During a period of six months there will be semi-prohibition.

The more astute prohibition leaders have given signs of a willingness to have a twilight time before the full rigors of the constitutional amendment arrive. They realize that, while the language of the amendment is plain, much depends on the supplementary enforcing legislation yet to be enacted. The lifeless clause of the Fourteenth Amendment which requires the reduction of a state's representation in Congress and in the Electoral College proportionate to any limitation on male adult suffrage is a warning that something may be in the Constitution and not in the law. It is feared that Congress may refrain from blowing a full breath of life into the new constitutional amendment. While the delicate business is under consideration, prudence suggests no unnecessary irritation of anti-prohibitionists.

Conversely, many anti-prohibitionists who are more interested in conditions near year than in the immediate future prefer to have complete prohibition in effect while Congress deliberates. They hope for some permanent amelioration and argue that it would be valuable for Congress to have the instruction of actual experience.

So the rôles are to some degree temporarily reversed. The man who wants his favorite tippie and does not look far ahead, of course, will be little influenced by such refinements, nor will the man who considers any traffic in alcoholic beverages immoral. But between are elements which will maneuver for ultimate advantages. The goods exhibited at Washington may not be exactly as advertised.

No inconsiderable body of opinion, composed of persons who want to know if nation-wide prohibition will work, will incline to the view that if prohibition is to come the sooner it comes the better. As things are, many are left in dubiety and defer search for other employment. If the time of uncertainty should scarcely be prolonged, if adjustment must be made, July is as good a time to begin it as January.

The Sick Man of Europe

Rumors are coming from Paris that Great Britain and France are disinclined to go to extremes in dismembering Turkey. It has been universally assumed that the Sick Man of Europe was on his deathbed and that the Ottoman Turk was to return after the war to his ancient stamping grounds in Asia Minor.

The United States never was at war with Turkey and cannot become a signatory to any treaty of peace and partition to which Turkey's plenipotentiaries are requested to affix their names. But paragraph twelve of the Fourteen Points, which were accepted as the basis of a treaty with Germany, reads as follows:

"The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees."

The only genuinely Turkish portion of the Ottoman Empire is Anatolia. The Turks form a minority of the population of the empire as a whole and are largely concentrated in this one province. Constantinople's population is probably less than one-half Turk. It already has the makings of an internationalized community.

But Great Britain and France are said to be apprehensive of the effect on their Mahometan subjects of an ejection of the Sultan from Constantinople. He is the nominal head of Islam, and although his political suzerainty has been rejected by the Arabs and other Moslem peoples, his religious character remains. There is talk, therefore, of permitting him to remain in Constantinople, which is one of the chief capitals of Islam, and attaching the city and a strip of European territory to his shrunken Anatolian realm.

The Sick Man on the Bosphorus has had many lives. The powers of Europe hesitated for generations to eject him, because they could not agree on a division of his inheritance. At last he was despoiled of everything he owned in Europe except Constantinople and its environs. His European title seemed to be completely liquidated. But when political considerations could no longer save him religious considerations intervened. It will be the strangest respite in his long career if he shall now owe a continuation of his tenancy in Constantinople to the disinclination of his Christian conquerors to strip him of symbols of leadership which still make their appeal to the Mussulman mind.

The Conning Tower

Looking upon the wine when it is light promises to continue to be one of our vices or relaxations, as does looking on the frosted chocolate when it is untaxed. Also looking on the Congress when it is Republican.

Remember, also, that there is a likelihood that Prohibition will not become effective. And in that event the Salvation Army will have more work to do. Slip 'em a coin.

Bishop Greer

It was the combination of executive ability of a high order with the broadest Christian charity in the finest sense of that word that made Bishop Greer a distinguished servant of his church and his community. The upbuilding of his old church, St. Bartholomew's, marked the constructive talent that later administered a diocese with tact and wisdom. A reign of ordered growth and prosperity was his, whereof the great church building on Cathedral Heights stands the sign and symbol.

In the war, and especially in the current of that great interdenominationalism which service of the nation set free, Bishop Greer gave the most generous and inspiring leadership. His stanch liberalism came to the fore and enabled him to unite with rabbi, with Roman Catholic priest, with every faith, in the one cause of the hour. His was a splendid and lasting example. It was the crowning opportunity of a long and useful career and in its memory not only the members of Bishop Greer's church but every New Yorker can be grateful and mourn his death.

Saving the Common Schools

The whole state can be thankful that Governor Smith was finally won over to the teachers' pay bill. Dr. Finley's clear and candid mind evidently furnished the decisive argument that saved the legislation. Once persuaded, Governor Smith backed his signature with an admirable statement of the broad basis of common school education in terms which every taxpayer must appreciate.

The gravest fact has been the failure to attract proper material for the training schools. A teaching force cannot be improvised. To let our teaching salaries remain as low as they have been would not only handicap our schools in the next few years but cripple them for a generation. To permit such a condition in these crucial years, when every force making for Americanization will be needed at its highest efficiency, would be the height of folly.

Disarmed, Not Enslaved

To Germany complaints of the economic terms of the peace treaty the Allies reply that they "had no intention to destroy Germany's economic life."

The allegation of German representatives that her adversaries have coldly determined to make Germany a land of slaves has no more basis than the assertion, parroted in German documents for four years, that she was "forced" into the war—that on her part it was one of necessary self-defence. As the one has been refuted, so will be the other.

Germany is disarmed, and conditions are prescribed under which she must continue disarmed. Instead of this being to Germany's economic disadvantage it is to her advantage. In what school have the Germans learned that for a workman to carry a soldier on his back adds to the workman's production? It is the Allied nations, accepting the cost of maintaining fleets and armies to insure just peace to all, which will be under economic pressure because of the peace. Germany under the peace will sustain the relations to the world that Canada bore to Great Britain before the war. Canada was assured of protection, but bore no considerable part of the burden of payment. Germany is similarly to enjoy and not to pay.

German diligence will as much harvest the fruit of its labor as diligence elsewhere. There is no trade shackling in the peace. All that is sought is to prevent Germany from having undue advantages. If her merchant ships had been returned to her while those of Great Britain were under the sea there would have been no fair play. If Germany were not asked to bear part of the cost of reparation she would be busy making goods while Frenchmen were putting up factories and installing machinery. It may not be forgotten that Germany is the one nation which escaped from the war unruined.

Nations in their separate capacities are to have economic self-determination after the war. What they will do has not yet been decided, but the peace treaty itself establishes no discrimination. Germany thus still is a formidable trade rival. None know this better than German business men, who are getting ready to compete. There is far more likelihood of unfair competition from Germany than of unfair competition against her.

Scotland's Oldest Newspaper

A recent issue of "The Aberdeen Journal" was the 20,000th number of that venerable newspaper—now the oldest in Scotland. The first issue of "The Journal" was published on April 18, 1746, and contained an account, by an eyewitness, of the battle of Culloden, fought two days previously. This narrative, however, offended the Jacobites, and James Chalmers, the editor, narrowly escaped falling a victim to their wrath. He was a fellow apprentice of Benjamin Franklin. Another notable incident in "The Journal's" history was its being publicly burned at the hands of the common hangman in October, 1753—"an excellent advertisement," we are told.

But perhaps the outstanding event in the career of the newspaper was in 1787, when "The Aberdeen Journal" was visited by Robert Burns during his northern tour. In the office, on this occasion, Burns met Bishop Skinner, son of the author of "Tullochgorum" and "The Yowie wi' the Crookit Horn," masterpieces of literature, which evoked the admiration of the Ayrshire poet. Afterward Burns and Chalmers (son of the founder) adjourned to the New Inn, where Dr. Johnson also stayed on his way north.

The Truth Tour
By Wilbur Forrest

COBLENZ, Germany, May 7.—Because numerous "irrepressibles" and "irresponsible" who were the uniform of Uncle Sam in France went home with exaggerated ideas regarding the American army, the war and themselves in general, a long special train marked "A. E. F. Press Special" rolled into the Coblenz railway yards to-day.

The two facts contained in the above paragraph seem strangely apart, but the truth of the matter in plain language is that there has been some "tall lying" at home about the war, due mainly to ignorance of the facts, and General Pershing's headquarters is therefore conducting a campaign of education for soldiers who came to the army from the newspaper profession and who soon go home not only to talk about the war but to write about it for years to come. So some two hundred ex-members of the newspaper profession aboard the special here to-day owe their visit to famous American battlefields, General Pershing's headquarters, the entire service of supplies, and, finally, to the army of occupation in Germany, to the imagination of certain soldier comrades who have in hundreds of cases told such obvious "whoppers" that these "whoppers" have rebounded clear back to France.

The Whopper Room

There is a small room in Paris into which these "whoppers" have been rebounding with such persistence during the last few months that they were finally called in bulk to the attention of General Pershing's staff. This room is the editorial sanctum of "The Stars and Stripes," the official army newspaper. Over the desks of Captain Mark S. Watson, former Chicago newspaperman, and Lieutenant Stephen J. Early, former Washington writer, editor and assistant editor, respectively, pour the heart and soul of the A. E. F. These desks and the men behind them feed the pulse of the American army. The American soldier considers "The Stars and Stripes" his "father confessor," or his open forum and he makes his complaints, not generally to his lieutenant, captain or major in the field, but to the desks of Captain Watson and Lieutenant Early, who gauge the merits of the "kicks" and answer them either by publicity in "The Stars and Stripes" or by private correspondence with General Pershing's headquarters.

THE SNOOP BUREAU OF PSYCHO-ANALYSIS
Fiction Department

Dear Sir: As per request I have analyzed the story in the Satepost of May 10, entitled ROMANCE, and herewith submit report.

The story is short, comprising only seven columns, including one illustration. It is about a simple-minded youth in love with a matter-of-fact girl, the apparent theme being that in every love affair, however prosaic it may seem to the outsider (and even to the girl), the lover finds romance.

I annex the two lists of words, A and B, from which I deduce one illustration. It is about a simple-minded youth in love with a matter-of-fact girl, the apparent theme being that in every love affair, however prosaic it may seem to the outsider (and even to the girl), the lover finds romance.

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A Boy Hero

A youngster in St. Louis told a local newspaper how he lay for five hours on the battlefield holding his severed jugular vein together to prevent bleeding to death. When the stretcher bearers came, he told in dramatic detail how bullets flew so fast that they cut the handles off the stretcher. He recounted other thrilling experiences and told of many wounds until he got his picture in the paper posing as the "boy hero." The story, picture and all, came back to comrades who knew him "intimately" in France, and they sat down to write the truth to "The Stars and Stripes." Official investigation revealed that the "boy hero" had not been wounded once and had run very small risk of even being hit.

Close Investigation Made

A captain of engineers of the 77th Division was credited with telling a Buffalo newspaper that the 77th won the war, alone and unaided, making the armistice possible by its drive through Argonne Forest. Without in any way diminishing the excellent fighting record of the New York metropolitan division, the army's official publication reprinted the interview with comment, mentioning the captain's name.

Between seventy-five and one hundred letters from officers and men alike, who still remain in France, including clippings of home told "whoppers" have been reaching the desks of Captain Watson and Lieutenant Early every day for weeks and the flow continues on the upgrade. Only lack of space has prevented publication of all of them after the close investigation which is made in almost every case.

Colored Jazz

(From The Manchester Guardian)

Jazz bands in London (writes "M. H.") continue to flourish and bang, but to hear and see a jazz band in all its glory you must go to Paris. Whether American colored troops were allowed to bring their wives I do not know, but in all events there are a great many colored wives of colored troops in Paris, and you may see them going about in smart Paris frocks, their heads tied up in brilliant bandanna handkerchiefs. Jazz bands may consist of colored husbands only, or they may be mixed. They play with the sustained vigor possible only to darkies, and if you give them plenty of champagne, as you are expected to do, they begin to sing as well as play, then to shout, and then to yell. They are immensely popular with Parisians, who, say the resident Americans, spoil them completely and have raised their taste in cigars to preposterous standards. It is quite true that they do not smoke by units, but prefer a whole box, and of the best brand. Paris does not dance to the same extent as does London, but when it does it likes it concentrated.

A Non-paying Industry

(From The Kansas City Times)

The Hungarian Bolshevik government has thrown up the job, both the government and the people making the surprising discovery that paper doeses, even when backed up by industrial murder, do not produce food.

The Truth Tour
By Wilbur Forrest

It was after many hundreds of these letters had passed over the two desks in "The Stars and Stripes" office that the larger aspect of the situation began to loom up. It was realized that many people at home were in grave danger of receiving a distorted idea and an entirely biased perspective of the greatest war in America's history. The situation was presented to Brigadier General D. E. Nolan, chief of intelligence of the staff, and it was theorized after due reflection that many of these stories were actually believed by the narrators because of the comparatively small general viewpoint of tens of thousands of soldiers who knew or had little opportunity to know much of anything that transpired outside of their immediate regimental or unit sectors. Obviously, there appeared no immediate cure for the evil, but a method of preventing its expansion was agreed upon. In a conference which discussed the problem it was suggested that almost every profession in civil life had found some corresponding niche in the A. E. F. to drop into; thus lawyers had gone in great numbers to the judge advocate's department, mercantile men to the quartermaster's department, chemists to chemical warfare, engineers to engineer regiments, and down the line wherever a square peg fitted a square hole. But one comparatively small profession had had, it was observed, no niche to drop into, and that profession was represented by hundreds of ex-newspaper men who had served mainly in the combat units where scope of general observation was most limited of all. In days of action they knew what was developing only in their own company and generally their limit of knowledge seldom reached far out of the division area.

Writers Assembled

Following the conference at Chaumont, a small "boxed" notice was printed on the front page of "The Stars and Stripes" asking all men in the A. E. F. who had been professional writers in civil life to send in their names and addresses. Without knowing the object of the registration, nearly 650 responded—ex-writers for publications of all sorts and varieties, large and small.

They were brought to Paris—two hundred in the first lot—and told the object of a special train trip throughout the entire A. E. F. and into Germany as guests of General Pershing. They were notified that the tour of two weeks was to be a "truth" tour and not necessarily a mere sightseeing trip. They were informed that no "camouflage" would cover any department of the entire American military organization, its past and present, and that they might look into its very vitals in the interests of truth. It was emphasized that no politics—army, personal or private—had no part in the show, and that all distinction of rank would be abolished. Newspapers and magazines of thirty-five states were represented on the special train that pulled into Coblenz to-day. Among the representatives were majors, captains, lieutenants, sergeant majors, tour sergeants, plain sergeants, corporals and privates, first class and "plain buck." They were first shown Paris, eating the same meals and seeing the same things. Then they boarded the train to see the A. E. F. in its functional unity.

How Truth Was Taught

They saw Chateau Thierry, Vaux, Verdun, Montfaucon, Varennes, Grandpre, Bazancourt, the Meuse, the Argonne and the battlefields from St. Mihiel to Sedan. They went to G. H. Q. for information on how battles were planned and they jumped to the S. O. S. to see how armies were fed and supplied. These newspaper men of limited scope during actual fighting admitted after they had seen the enormous supply organizations at Bordeaux, St. Nazaire, Brest, Giverny, Is-sur-Tille, St. Pierre-des-Corps, Meun and other square miles of American industry where men were still sweating and toiling, that they had once entertained a certain contempt for the men who "sat back in the S. O. S. on easy streets shirking duty." But when they learned that these "shirkers" had been working from twelve to fifteen hours each day, seven days each week, for many months they changed their minds. One S. O. S. worker who happened to be a member of the "truth" party was shown a "pillbox" on one of the hottest battlefields. He had served in the S. O. S. medical department, piling boxes of medicines destined for the front.

Combat Writers Were Equally Amazed

"Is that where they kept medical supplies during the battle?" he asked.

The combat writers were equally amazed with their observations in the S. O. S. They agreed that if the S. O. S. had not tolled long, tedious hours to send up the food, ammunition and supplies of every kind that battles might not have been successfully fought. It developed clearly to the "truth" tourists that the S. O. S. view of the front and the front's view of the S. O. S. had been neither the fault of one nor the other. It was limited viewpoint, each man filling the niche assigned and, judging from results, doing it well.

Indented Art

(From The London Times)

The Corporation of Kendal has just come into possession of an interesting document concerning one of its most distinguished inhabitants. It is the indenture of "articles of agreement" between George Romney and his father on the one hand and Christopher Steel on the other.

By these articles Romney "placed and bound himself apprentice unto the said Christopher Steel to be taught and instructed in the Art or Science of a painter." For the full term of four years, during which time George Romney undertook to obey his master's lawful commands, and his father further undertook to provide his son with "suitable and necessary cloaths both linen and woollen." For the privilege of "indention under Steel, the elder Romney paid £21, for which, on his part, Steel covenanted "during all the said term of four years" to "sufficiently teach and instruct the said George Romney in the said art or science of a painter."

A Chinese Lyric

(From The Church Students Monthly)

Li-Po was more warlike in spirit than any other of the early Chinese poets. His lines reflect patriotic devotion rather than the wretched aspects of war. This little lyric with a delicate stroke of the brush gives us the dream of home and fatherland:

"Atwart the bed
I watch the moonbeams cast a trail
So bright, so cold, so frail,
That for a space it gleams
Like hear-frost on the margin of my dreams.
I raise my head—
The splendid moon I see;
Then droop my head,
And sink to dreams of thee—
My fatherland, of thee!"

As They Do in Texas

(From The Dallas News)

It has just about got so in this country that the only way for a man to get by the first day of the month is to grab the bill by the horns.

General Liggett Qualifies

(From The Birmingham Age-Herald)

General Liggett now occupies the former royal suite in the largest hotel in Coblenz. Just shows that a free-born American citizen can do for himself if he has pluck and ability.

Omsk via Tokio
Translated by Adachi Kinnosuke

GENERAL MUTO, the highest ranking Japanese officer with the Kolchak government at Omsk, Siberia, gave the following interview to a representative of the Tokio "Jiji" at Harbin, Manchuria, on his way home to Japan. The general had been with the Omsk government for more than half a year, and what he says has a pertinent and particular interest at this time.

"The Kolchak government has been laying a firm foundation for some time past," said the general. "It has come to command the confidence not only of the city of Omsk, but also of the surrounding countries. The people have learned to respect its authority now. The only faction which opposes it is the Left Wing of the Social Revolutionary party. But, of course, that is composed of men who are near Bolsheviks. And they are losing their influence with the people at large very fast, those men of the Left Wing. What they demand of the Kolchak régime is a more liberal attitude toward radical democratic tendencies which they espouse. On the other hand, the Right Wing of the Social Revolutionary party is demanding of the Kolchak government that it should carry out the governmental programmes through more rigorous and effective means, without troubling itself too much with theories and ideals. The democrats are backing them in this contention of the Right Wing. They, too, demand that the government carry out its programmes with more or less arbitrary decisiveness of action."

Between Two Fires

"Therefore the government is now between two fires. The Kolchak régime declares that it is going to steer the middle course. And outwardly at least it is paying a great deal of attention and respect to the expression of the people's wishes and showing every sign of abiding with the democratic tendencies of the times. At the same time the inner working of the régime is none too gentle with the newspapers and magazine publications that criticise the régime or oppose it. Some of them are suppressed rigorously and punished, and the régime is carrying out its plans steadily."

"The press of Omsk and the surrounding districts has changed its attitude considerably toward Japan of late. It is quite friendly now toward us. At first the British declared that they were going to assist the Omsk people with 100,000 Canadian troops, and the United States actually dispatched one company of infantry to Omsk for their assistance. Other Allied powers also sent small forces far into the interior of Siberia. But Japan did not do that; she simply dispatched a great force to the district east of Baikal. The Russians misunderstood this move of Japan; they took it as the Japanese occupation of Eastern Siberia. But they came to read the real intention of Japan through the recent withdrawal of the Japanese forces. Moreover, the Siberians have watched the action of the forces of different powers along the Ural front, and they seem to have come to the conclusion that Japan is about the only dependable power in their section of the world. All these things have made for a better sentiment toward Japan and the Japanese."

Where Japan Gains

"Certain circles among the Siberians have taken offence over the Prince's Islands conference. 'What! Do they take us for Bolsheviks? Do they expect to deal with us as with the Bolsheviks?' is an exclamation very common among Siberians just now. And they are indignant about the matter. They know, of course, Japan had nothing to do with the Prince's Islands affair, and this seems to have increased their pro-Japanese sentiment."

"As for the financial policy of the Kolchak government, it is trying its utmost to lay its plans within the means collected through domestic revenues and other sources all within the country. Its policy is to avoid foreign loans as much as possible. But it would seem that there is no other way to solve the tangle but through foreign loans if the Kolchak government is to assume the actual shape of an established state of any proportions. The capital for all sorts of enterprises is very scarce at present. Therefore, individuals and corporations of different districts and cities are borrowing capital from Americans purely in their individual capacity. The revenue of the government is increasing almost monthly. It publishes the monthly report of its finances through newspapers to let the people know all about the expenditures and so prevent any possibility of misunderstanding on this score."

As for the recognition of the Kolchak

government, both England and France have practically decided to do so, and no doubt we should take the same course. As soon as the Kolchak government settles down Japan will take the first opportunity of recognizing it. And I think this will come very soon."

Colored Jazz

(From The Manchester Guardian)

Jazz bands in London (writes "M. H.") continue to flourish and bang, but to hear and see a jazz band in all its glory you must go to Paris. Whether American colored troops were allowed to bring their wives I do not know, but in all events there are a great many colored wives of colored troops in Paris, and you may see them going about in smart Paris frocks, their heads tied up in brilliant bandanna handkerchiefs. Jazz bands may consist of colored husbands only, or they may be mixed. They play with the sustained vigor possible only to darkies, and if you give them plenty of champagne, as you are expected to do, they begin to sing as well as play, then to shout, and then to yell. They are immensely popular with Parisians, who, say the resident Americans, spoil them completely and have raised their taste in cigars to preposterous standards. It is quite true that they do not smoke by units, but prefer a whole box, and of the best brand. Paris does not dance to the same extent as does London, but when it does it likes it concentrated.

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(From The London Times)

The Corporation of Kendal has just come into possession of an interesting document concerning one of its most distinguished inhabitants. It is the indenture of "articles of agreement" between George Romney and his father on the one hand and Christopher Steel on the other.

By these articles Romney "placed and bound himself apprentice unto the said Christopher Steel to be taught and instructed in the Art or Science of a painter." For the full term of four years, during which time George Romney undertook to obey his master's lawful commands, and his father further undertook to provide his son with "suitable and necessary cloaths both linen and woollen." For the privilege of "indention under Steel, the elder Romney paid £21, for which, on his part, Steel covenanted "during all the said term of four years" to "sufficiently teach and instruct the said George Romney in the said art or science of a painter."

A Chinese Lyric

(From The Church Students Monthly)

Li-Po was more warlike in spirit than any other of the early Chinese poets. His lines reflect patriotic devotion rather than the wretched aspects of war. This little lyric with a delicate stroke of the brush gives us the dream of home and fatherland:

"Atwart the bed
I watch the moonbeams cast a trail
So bright, so cold, so frail,
That for a space it gleams
Like hear-frost on the margin of my dreams.
I raise my head—
The splendid moon I see;
Then droop my head,
And sink to dreams of thee—
My fatherland, of thee!"

As They Do in Texas

(From The Dallas News)

It has just about got so in this country that the only way for a man to get by the first day of the month is to grab the bill by the horns.

Omsk via Tokio
Translated by Adachi Kinnosuke

GENERAL MUTO, the highest ranking Japanese officer with the Kolchak government at Omsk, Siberia, gave the following interview to a representative of the Tokio "Jiji" at Harbin, Manchuria, on his way home to Japan. The general had been with the Omsk government for more than half a year, and what he says has a pertinent and particular interest at this time.

"The Kolchak government has been laying a firm foundation for some time past," said the general. "It has come to command the confidence not only of the city of Omsk, but also of the surrounding countries. The people have learned to respect its authority now. The only faction which opposes it is the Left Wing of the Social Revolutionary party. But, of course, that is composed of men who are near Bolsheviks. And they are losing their influence with the people at large very fast, those men of the Left Wing. What they demand of the Kolchak régime is a more liberal attitude toward radical democratic tendencies which they espouse. On the other hand, the Right Wing of the Social Revolutionary party is demanding of the Kolchak government that it should carry out the governmental programmes through more rigorous and effective means, without troubling itself too much with theories and ideals. The democrats are backing them in this contention of the Right Wing. They, too, demand that the government carry out its programmes with more or less arbitrary decisiveness of action."

Between Two Fires

"Therefore the government is now between two fires. The Kolchak régime declares that it is going to steer the middle course. And outwardly at least it is paying a great deal of attention and respect to the expression of the people's wishes and showing every sign of abiding with the democratic tendencies of the times. At the same time the inner working of the régime is none too gentle with the newspapers and magazine publications that criticise the régime or oppose it. Some of them are suppressed rigorously and punished, and the régime is carrying out its plans steadily."

"The press of Omsk and the surrounding districts has changed its attitude considerably toward Japan of late. It is quite friendly now toward us. At first the British declared that they were going to assist the Omsk people with 100,000 Canadian troops, and the United States actually dispatched one company of infantry to Omsk for their assistance. Other Allied powers also sent small forces far into the interior of Siberia. But Japan did not